रेल मन्त्री (श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीज) . (क) जी हां । अलवर के निकट अप्रत्याशित दुर्घटना की प्रतिक्रिया स्वरूप जयपुर में शंटिंग की कठिनाइयों के कारण गाड़ी विलम्ब से छूटी ।

(ख) प्रतिदिन गाड़ियों के चलने से पूर्व सवारी डिब्बों की सफाई की जाती है । मीटर लाइन की सवारी गाड़ियों में जो प्रत्येक स्टेशन पर रुकती हैं, पीने का पानी रखने की व्यवस्था नहीं है । मेल/एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों को जहां तक व्यावहारिक है, डीजल रेल इंजनों से चलाया जा रहा है ।

Central schemes to promote inter-caste marriages

3598. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Central schemes to promote inter-caste and inter-religions marriages in the country;

(b) what is the actual performance of said schemes;

(c) the expenditure incurred year-wise for such schemes during the last 3 years;

(d) whether Government propose to extend concessions given to backward and scheduled classes and tribes to the children of inter-caste and inter-religions married couples irrespective of the caste status of one of the spouses; and

(e) if not. what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There is no separate Central Scheme to promote inter-caste and inter-religious marriages. However, at State level some States *viz.*, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala etc. have schemes for promoting such types of marriages.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Delegation of powers to SC/ST Commission for prosecuting SC/ST

3599. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes can be prosecuted by Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, what are the statutory provisions thereof;

(c) if reply to (b) in negative. what steps have been taken by Centre Government for free, fair and independent prosecution of cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes minimising the influence of local authorities;

(d) whether Government would consider to delegate power of prosecution of cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to ensure free, fair and independent prosecution of cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(e) if reply to (d) be in affirmative, in what manner and by what time such power would be delegated to the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of atrocities) Act, 1989, which has come into force with effect from 30-1-1990, identifies various types of offences of atrocities, provides for effective machinery to quickly deal with such cases, such as specifying Special Courts and appointing Special Public Prosecutors and provides for stringent punishments to persons committing atrocities, including punishments to public servants who neglect their duties. The State Governments have been advised to establish exclusive Special Courts, as far as necessary and to ensure speedy conduct of trial of the offences under this Act. The Prime